

Appendix D:

Scoping Meeting Display Boards, Presentation, and Handout

BLM Scoping Boards

This page intentionally blank



Public Scoping

Welcome

Proposed Maricopa Solar Park Project Public Scoping Meeting



Scoping Meeting Agenda

Public Scoping Meeting / Open House Agenda

5:30 - 6:30 Sign In & Open House

6:30 - 7:00 BLM Presentation

7:00 - 8:00 Continue Open House



BLM

Maricopa Solar Park Project



BLM

Submit Your Comments

Tips for Providing an Effective Comment:

Effective comments address one or more of the following:

- the accuracy of information in the EIS;
- the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the environmental analysis;
- new information relevant to the analysis;
- reasonable alternatives other than those analyzed in the EIS; and/or
- changes or revisions in one or more of the proposed alternatives.



Ways to Provide a Comment

At the meeting:

- Fill out a comment form and submit it in the comment box.

After the meeting:

E-mail: BLM_AZ_Maricopasolar@blm.gov

Mail: Maricopa Solar Park Project
Attn: Lane Cowger
BLM Arizona State Office
One North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

For more information or if you have further questions contact:

Joe Incardine

BLM_AZ_Maricopasolar@blm.gov

801-539-4118

For Project Updates:

Project Website:

www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/solar/maricopa-solar.html



BLM

BLM Involvement

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Mission

Working with its partners at the local, state, and national levels, the BLM will meet its mission of sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



BLM Arizona administers 12.2 million surface acres of public lands, and another 17.5 million subsurface acres within the state.



BLM Arizona has 9 field offices throughout the state providing on-the-ground field management. BLM balances recreational, commercial, scientific and cultural interests. BLM strives for long-term protection of renewable and nonrenewable resources, including range, timber, minerals, recreation, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, wild horses and burros, and areas of natural, scenic, scientific and cultural values.

Arizona State Office

Ray Suazo
State Director
One Central Avenue
Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4427
Phone: 602-417-9200
Fax: 602-417-9398

Phoenix District Office

Mary D'Aversa
District Manager

Lower Sonoran Field Office

Brian Achziger
Acting Field Manager
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85027-2929
Phone: 623-580-5500
Fax: 623-580-5580



Maricopa Solar Park Project

What is NEPA?

What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

An EIS is a document prepared to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An EIS is prepared to analyze and disclose the effects of proposed activities on the environment.

Bureau of Land Management

Lead Agency responsible for managing the NEPA process and drafting the EIS.

Cooperating Agencies

Any Federal, state, or local agency, other than a lead agency, that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative.

BLM's Decision To Be Made

Determine whether or not to grant a right-of-way (ROW) application for construction of a photovoltaic solar facility.





BLM Purpose

BLM provides for uses of public land in the public interest in accordance with its multiple use mission and statutory mandates including:

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)
- Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct)
- Executive Order 13212 (Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects)
- Secretary of the Interior Order No. 3285A1 (Renewable Energy Development by the DOI)
- Lower Sonoran Resource Management Plan (BLM 2012)

BLM Need

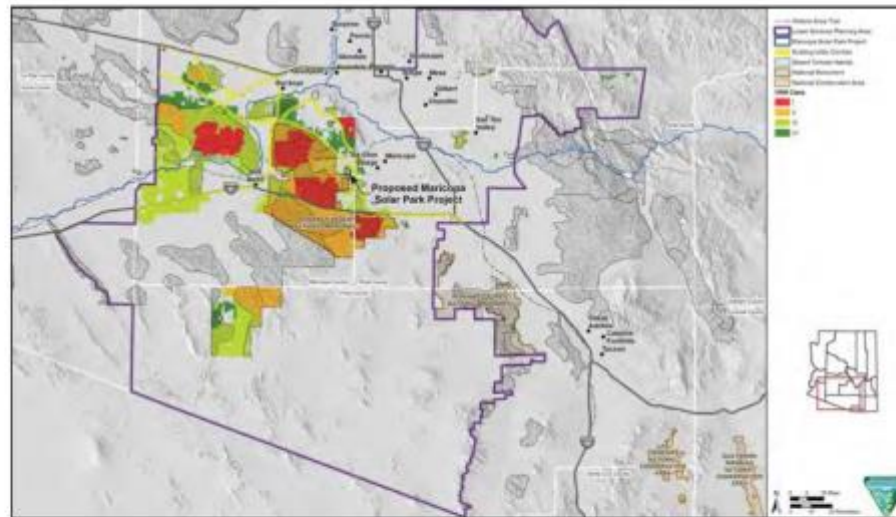
- Respond to the proponent's right-of-way application (Standard Form 299, Application for Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands) for access to, construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the photovoltaic (PV) solar power plant which would supply up to 300 megawatts of renewable electric energy to electric consumers.
- Support the President's New Energy for America Plan, which sets a target of ensuring 25 percent of US electricity is generated from renewable sources by 2025.

BLM Purpose and Need



Lower Sonoran Resource Management Plan

The RMP provides guidance for the management of nearly 1.4 million acres of public lands southwest of Phoenix, and allows for multiple-use of these lands, including utility-scale renewable energy production. The RMP has identified the area as possibly suitable for solar development due to low resource conflicts.



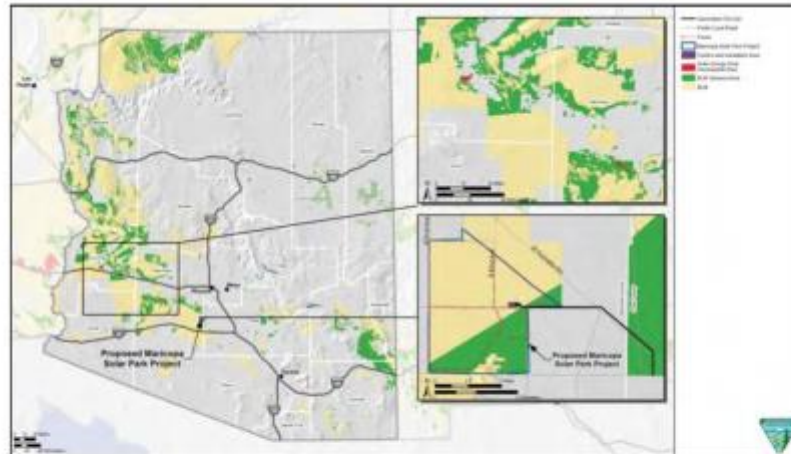
The full ROD/ARMP can be found at: www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/planning/son_des/docs.html



In October 2012, the BLM signed its *Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision (ROD) for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States*, which implements a comprehensive Solar Energy Program to administer the development of utility-scale solar energy resources on BLM-administered public lands in six southwestern states.

The decision includes:

- Incorporation of land use allocations, and programmatic and Solar Energy Zone (SEZ)-specific design features into 89 BLM land use plans in the six-state study area.
- Identification of exclusion areas for utility-scale solar energy ROWs, priority areas for utility-scale solar energy ROWs (i.e., SEZs), and areas potentially available for utility-scale solar energy development outside of exclusion areas and SEZs (i.e., variance areas).



The Solar Programmatic EIS





Variance Process

Lands outside of a Solar Energy Zone (SEZ), as designated in the Solar PEIS ROD, are considered variance lands. Developers proposing utility-scale solar energy development on variance lands must demonstrate to the BLM that the project would avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate effects on sensitive resources.

Marisol Energy 2, LLC has successfully completed the variance application process outlined in the Solar PEIS ROD:

- Marisol held pre-application meetings with the BLM and other Federal and local government agencies;
- Marisol held a public meeting in Maricopa, AZ in February 2013;
- Marisol submitted its variance application for consideration to the BLM Arizona State Office. The State Office then submitted the variance application to the BLM Washington Office for concurrence in May 2013. BLM Washington Office concurred with the Arizona State Office recommendation in June 2013.



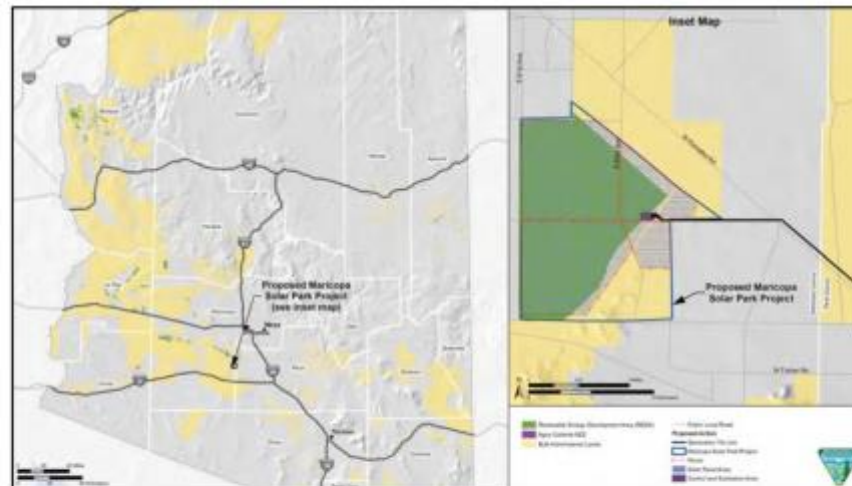


RDEP/ REDA

RDEP and REDA identification

The BLM Arizona published its *Restoration Design Energy Project (RDEP) Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments* in January 2013. The RDEP identifies and designates those lands with few known resource conflicts as Renewable Energy Development Areas (REDAs). The RDEP also tiers to the BLM's Solar Programmatic EIS and ROD (BLM 2012) by providing a more local level of analysis.

The Maricopa Solar Park Project falls within the "Mobile Proposed Disposal" REDA (site number 38) identified in the Arizona RDEP. The proposed project location is characterized by the presence of few natural resource and management conflicts, proximity to transmission lines, and proximity to known electrical load centers.



www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/arra_solar.html



Maricopa Solar Park Proposed Action Project Description

- Approximately 1,730 acres of BLM managed public land
- Electrical generating facility with a nominal capacity of up to 300 megawatts (MW), based on the best available technology at the time of construction
- Photo-voltaic technology (PV)
- The projected water usage for operations is 5.4 acre/feet per year
- Up to two high-voltage overhead transmission lines, each approximately 2.3 miles in length
- Connects to the Pinal West substation
- ROW grant for 30 years



www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/solar/maricopa-solar.html

BLM

Maricopa Solar Park Project



BLM

Preliminary Environmental Considerations

What will be Analyzed?

The agency must analyze the full range of direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed project and any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action will be considered.



Cultural Resources- Any object or specific location of past human activity, occupation, or use, identifiable through historical documentation.



Biological Resources- Plant and animal species in the project area with special emphasis on sensitive or protected species.



Recreation- Designated recreational uses (campgrounds, picnic areas, off-highway vehicle use) and nondesignated recreational uses (hunting, rock hounding).



Visual Resources and Noise- Refers to the scenic or visual quality and character of the landscape.

What is an Impact?

- An "impact" is a change or consequence that results from an activity.
- Impacts can be positive or negative, or both.
- An EIS describes effects, as well as ways to "mitigate" effects. To "mitigate" means to lessen or remove negative effects.



Land Use- Compatibility of project with designated land uses on BLM land and surrounding lands.



Socioeconomics- Evaluation of economic and social impacts of the project on local communities or populations.



Grazing- Impacts to lands designated as available or permitted for grazing of livestock.



Water Resources- Surface and groundwater resources in the project area or regional area.



Existing Features/ Land Ownership/ Communities Overview



Surrounding Project Area

The proposed Maricopa Solar Park Project is located in Mobile Valley, north of Interstate 8, east of the Sonoran Desert National Monument, and west of the Town of Maricopa in Maricopa County, Arizona, on lands within the BLM's Lower Sonoran Field Office.

This page intentionally blank

Marisol Boards

This page intentionally blank

About Marisol Energy 2

- Independent renewable energy developer headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona
- Committed to renewable energy and minimizing environmental impact
- Established for the sole purpose of developing the Maricopa Solar Park project located south of metropolitan Phoenix
- International permitting and development experience – active industrial projects in South Africa, Brazil, etc
- Financial strength – ability to attract capital investment and create strategic partnerships
- Technical expertise – staffed with internationally recognized engineers, designers and planners
- Committed to supporting local communities – hire local when feasible and support local businesses
- **www.MaricopaSolarPark.com**



About Maricopa Solar Park Project- Proposed Action

- Located in Maricopa County, AZ - 30 miles southwest of Phoenix (west of the City of Maricopa)
- On 1,730 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management
- First project in the U.S. to receive a variance since outside of a designated Solar Energy Zone
- Utilizes photovoltaic (PV) technology
- Up to 300 megawatts (enough to power 75,000 Arizona homes), based on best available technology at the time of construction
- Will connect to Pinal West Substation (2.3 miles east of project site)
- Ability to be constructed in phases (ie 20-50mw blocks)
- 30 year operational life
- Permitting: BLM is the lead agency for the NEPA process, ACC has jurisdiction for the electric interconnection



MARISOL ENERGY 2



Economic Impact

- During 2-year construction phase: 100-200 workers onsite at any given time
- During operational phase: 25 full-time employees
- Local business spinoff activity (ie service and supply contracts, restaurants/hotels, etc)
- Commitment to local hiring practices
- Training programs onsite (local school partnerships)
- State and local tax revenue

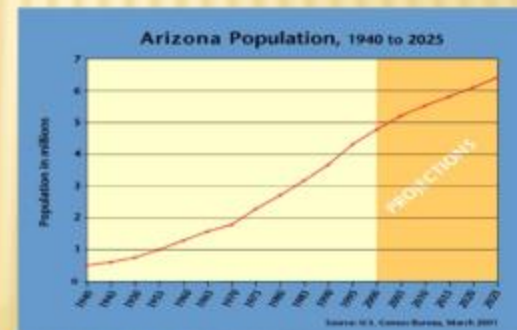


MARISOL ENERGY 2



Need & Benefit

- Renewable solar energy helps displace fossil fuel generation (ab.348,000 tons CO₂/year)
- Allows states to meet Renewable Energy Standards and beyond (15% by 2025 in Arizona)
- Diverse energy sources will help meet the growing energy needs of the Southwest
- Additional generation to support peak load hours
- Achieves the goal of generating electricity while conserving water and minimizing environmental impact



MARISOL ENERGY 2



Technology: Photovoltaic (PV)

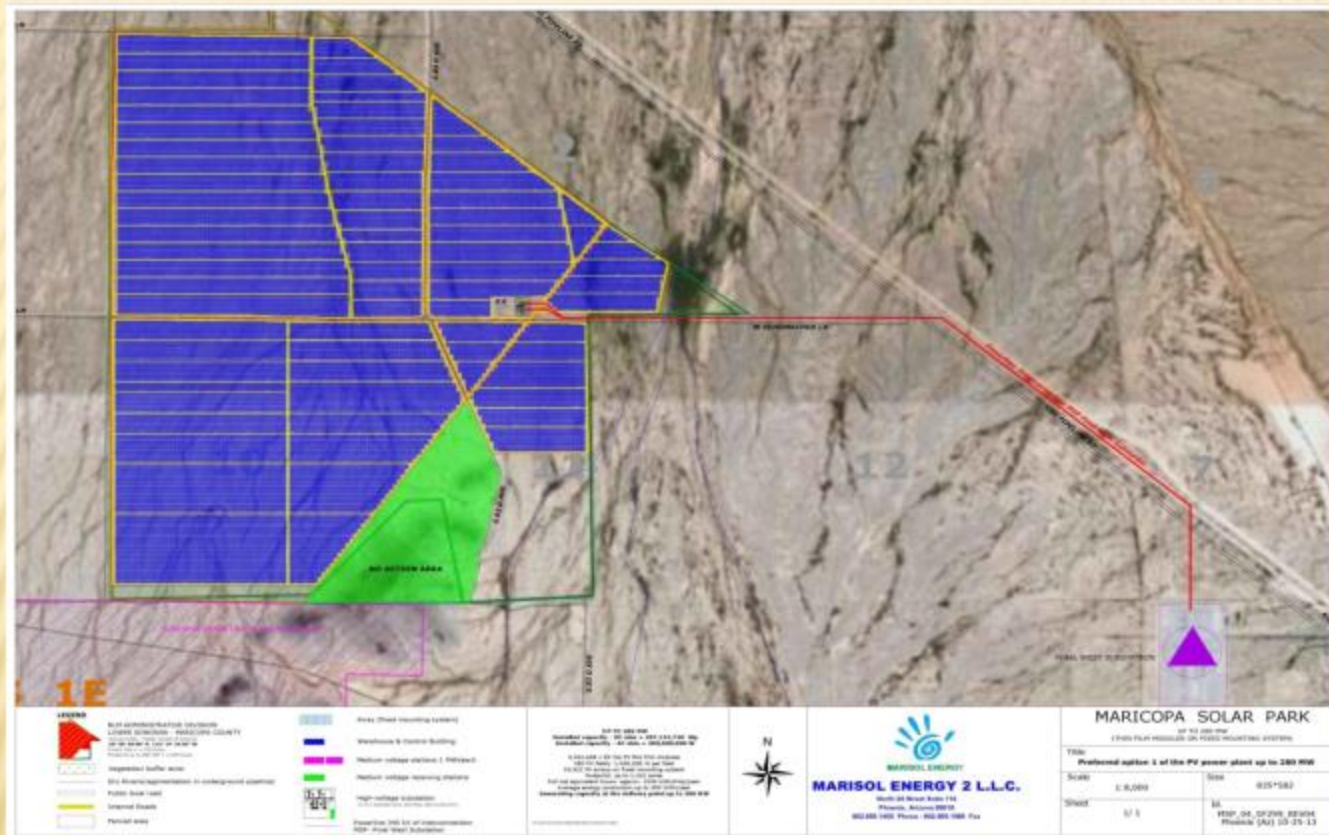
- Electrical power generated by converting solar radiation into direct current electricity using semiconductors
- Unlike concentrating solar power (CSP) technology, PV modules require minimal water
- PV module prices have dropped dramatically allowing for competitive solar power generation
- Ability to help utilities meet a part of daily peak load requirements



MARISOL ENERGY 2



Layout on a Footprint of 1,430 Acres



MARISOL ENERGY 2



Plant Simulation- Hill Top View



MARISOL ENERGY 2

THIS PHOTOSIMULATION IS A GRAPHIC RENDERING OF ANTICIPATED CONDITIONS POST-CONSTRUCTION OF THE MARICOPA SOLAR PARK PROJECT. CHANGES TO THE LAYOUT AND FOOTPRINT OF THE SOLAR PROJECT MAY OCCUR AS A RESULT OF DETAILED ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT AND SITE CONDITIONS.



This page intentionally blank

BLM Open House Presentation

This page intentionally blank



BLM Team



Bureau of Land Management

- Washington Office – Joe Incardine, National Project Manager
- Arizona State Office – Eddie Arreola, Supervisory Project Manager, RECO
- Arizona State Office – Lane Cowger, Project Manager, RECO
- Phoenix District Office – Mary D'Aversa, District Manager
- Lower Sonoran Field Office - Ed Kender, Field Manager

Agency Contractors

- SWCA – Greg Larson and Elisha Hornung
- Galileo Project – Meredith Griffin and Ellen Carr

Marisol Team - Proponent



Marisol Energy 2, LLC

- Clara Stabiumi – General Manager
- Izel van Rooy – Project Manager
- Daniele Ventura – Project Engineer



Proponent Contractors

- Copperstate Consulting – Ian Calkins

Purpose of Meeting



The purpose of this public scoping meeting is to:

- Describe the proposed project;
- Describe BLM's role;
- Describe the NEPA process for the environmental impact statement (EIS); and
- Receive your input on issues and concerns to be considered in the EIS.

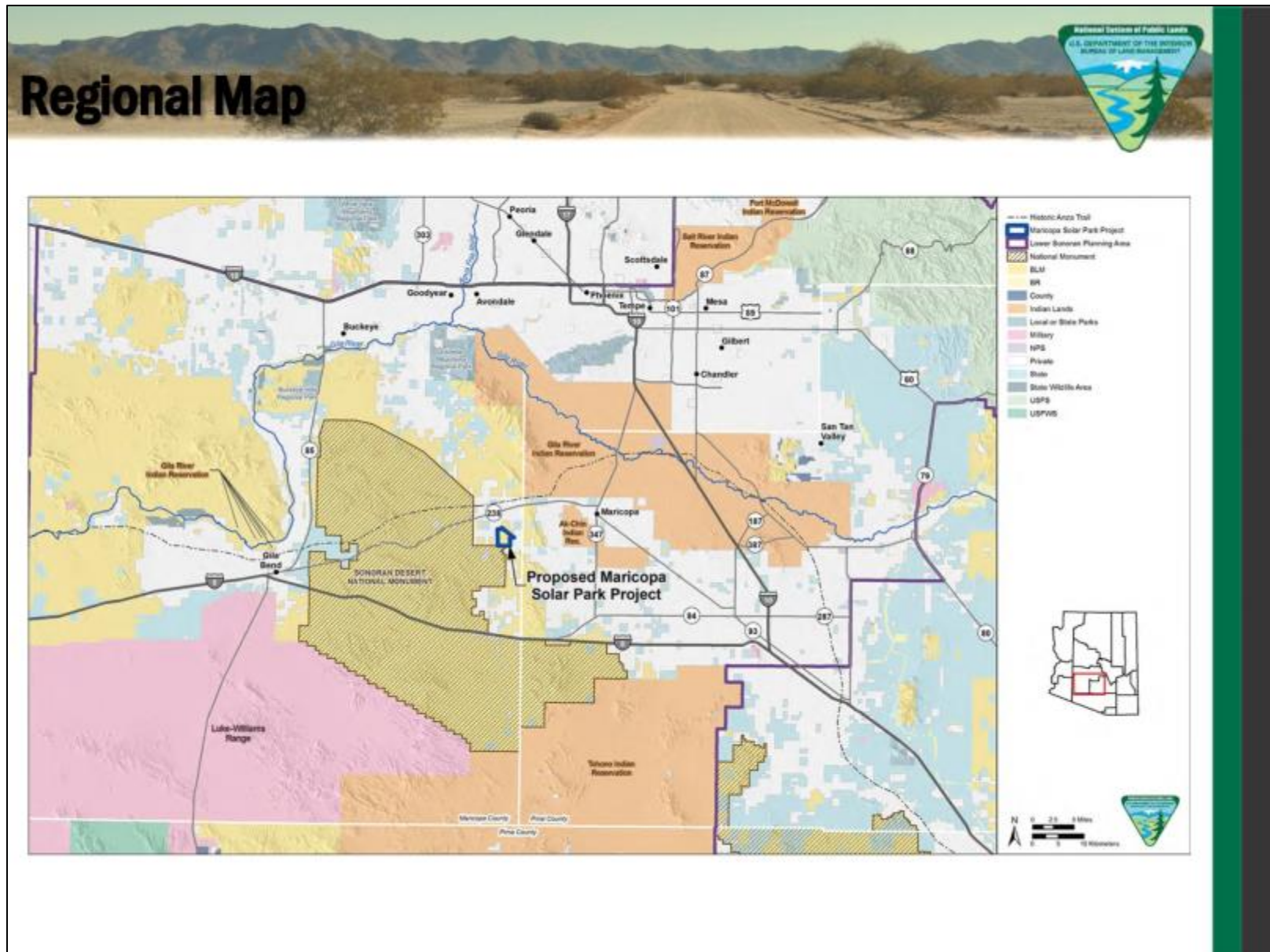
Proposed Project

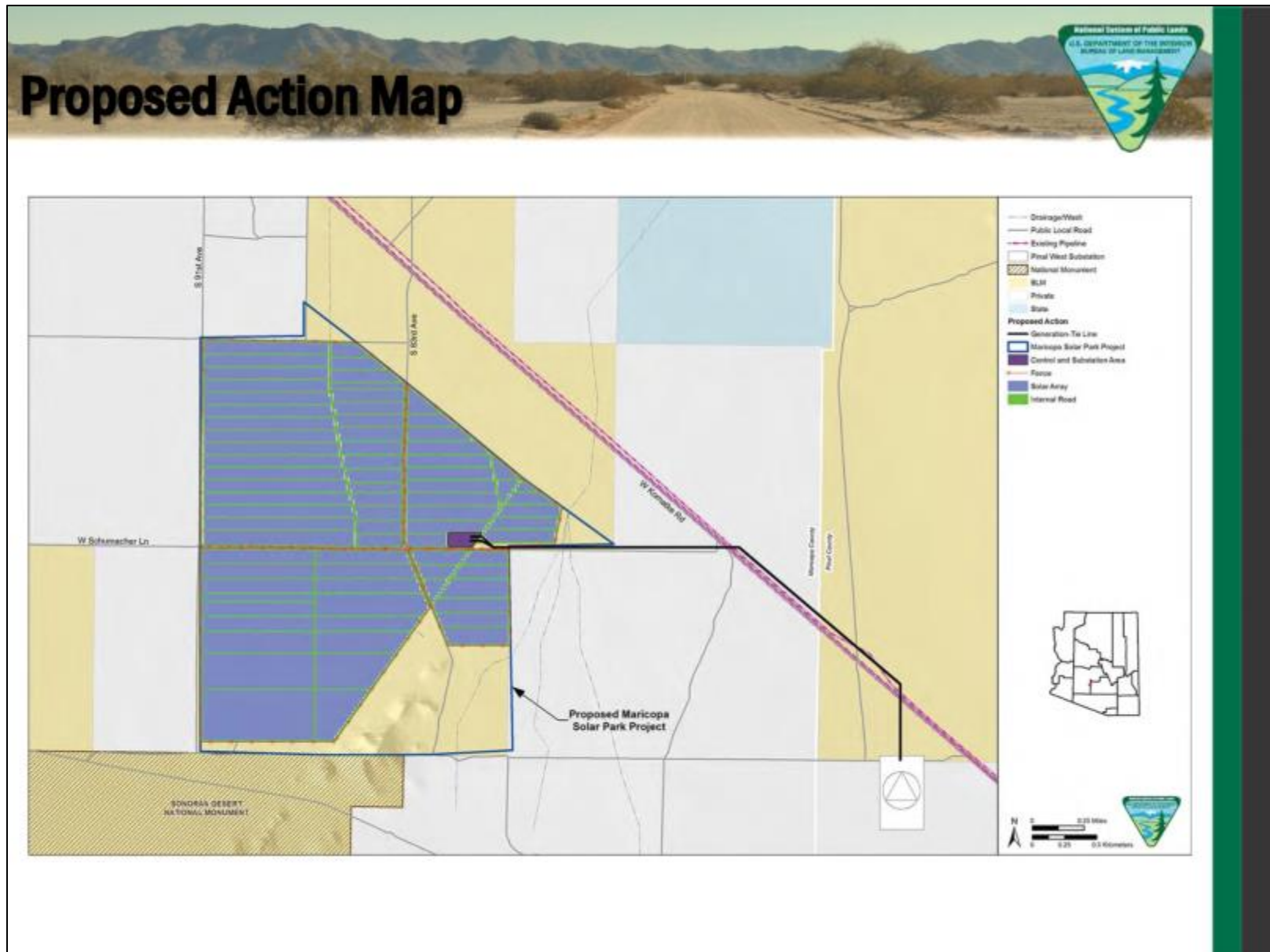
Marisol submitted a right-of-way (ROW) application and initial Plan of Development (POD) to construct, operate, and maintain a photovoltaic solar power plant with a generating capacity of up to 300 megawatts, based on the best available technology at the time of construction.



The proposed project would also include construction of one or two 2.3-mile, high voltage transmission line(s) connecting the project to the existing Pinal West Substation. The project would use approximately 5.4 acre-feet of water per year for facility operation. *(One acre foot of water is approximately equivalent to the water used by a family of 5 in one year.)*







NEPA (EIS Process)



- **National Environmental Policy Act (1969):**
 - Requires Federal agencies to analyze and disclose impacts for major federal actions like commercial solar facilities and other utility scale renewable energy projects.

- **EIS analysis:**
 - Describe existing environmental conditions.
 - Identify key issues to focus analysis.
 - Identify reasonable alternatives to consider and analyze.
 - Identify environmental consequences/impacts of proposed projects and ways to avoid or reduce impacts (mitigations).
 - Findings from EIS help decision-maker make informed decisions.



Potentially Affected Resources



The EIS will analyze the project area and identify impacts to the human environment and natural resources including:

➤ **Human Environment:**

- Human Health and Safety
- Socioeconomic Conditions and Environmental Justice
- Visual Resources
- Transportation
- Farmlands and Range Lands
- Land Use
- Cultural Resources

➤ **Natural Resources:**

- Air Quality and Climate Change
- Geological and Mineral Resources
- Paleontological
- Soils
- Special Designations
- Vegetation
- Water Resources
- Wildlife

Tiering



Existing Decisions for Tiering

- **Lower Sonoran RMP (2012)** – identified the project area as possibly suitable for solar development.
- **Arizona RDEP - *Restoration Design Energy Project* (2013)** – identified lands suitable for development of renewable energy; REDAs: few known resource conflicts.
 - Portion of project in the Mobile Proposed Disposal (site number 38)
 - Near substation , utility corridor and high solar resource value
- **Solar PEIS (2012)** – Established 17 priority areas for commercial-scale solar development in the West (Solar Energy Zones or “SEZs”); 2 SEZs identified in Arizona.
 - Proposal is outside of SEZs; but PEIS allows for Variance areas
 - Agency and Public meetings for Variance: May 2012 and February 2013
 - Variance for this proposal was approved June 2013

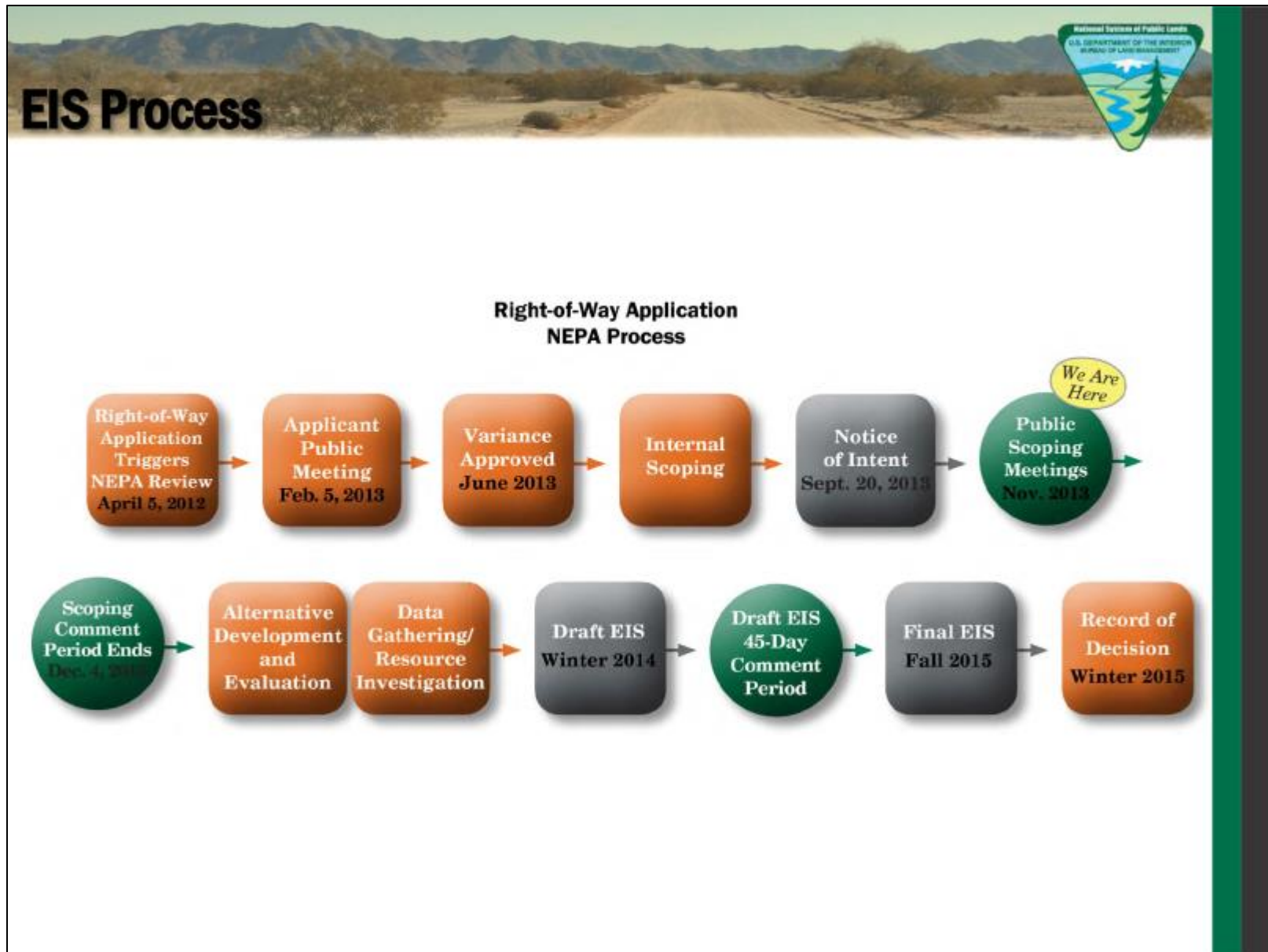
**Maricopa Solar Park Project EIS (starting) –
Site specific environmental analysis for subject proposed project.**

Scoping



➤ Scoping

- The process Federal agencies use in early stages of preparing an EIS to solicit input on issues and concerns.
- Public participation and input on the potential impacts and alternatives are encouraged.
- Informing the BLM on issues and concerns helps drive the agency's alternative formulation process.
- Public feedback and comments during scoping will be included in a summarized scoping report which will be used to develop the Draft EIS.



Project Milestones



Project Milestone Dates

NOI Publication	September 20, 2013
Scoping meetings	November 2013
Scoping comment period ends	December 4, 2013
Draft EIS	Winter 2014
Draft EIS Public Comment Period	45-days
Final EIS	Fall 2015
Record of Decision (ROD)	Winter 2015

How to be Involved



Tips for staying informed and providing comments:

- Sign up to be on the mailing list to receive notifications of project progress and upcoming meetings.
- Focus on the proposed project being analyzed.
- Provide potential 1) impacts and 2) alternatives to the Proposed Action.
- Submit your comments by the comment deadline – **December 4, 2013.**

How to Comment



- Oral or written comments for scoping
- Email: BLM_AZ_Maricopasolar@blm.gov
- Regular mail:
Proposed Maricopa Solar Park Project
ATTN: Lane Cowger
BLM Arizona State Office
One North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Next Steps



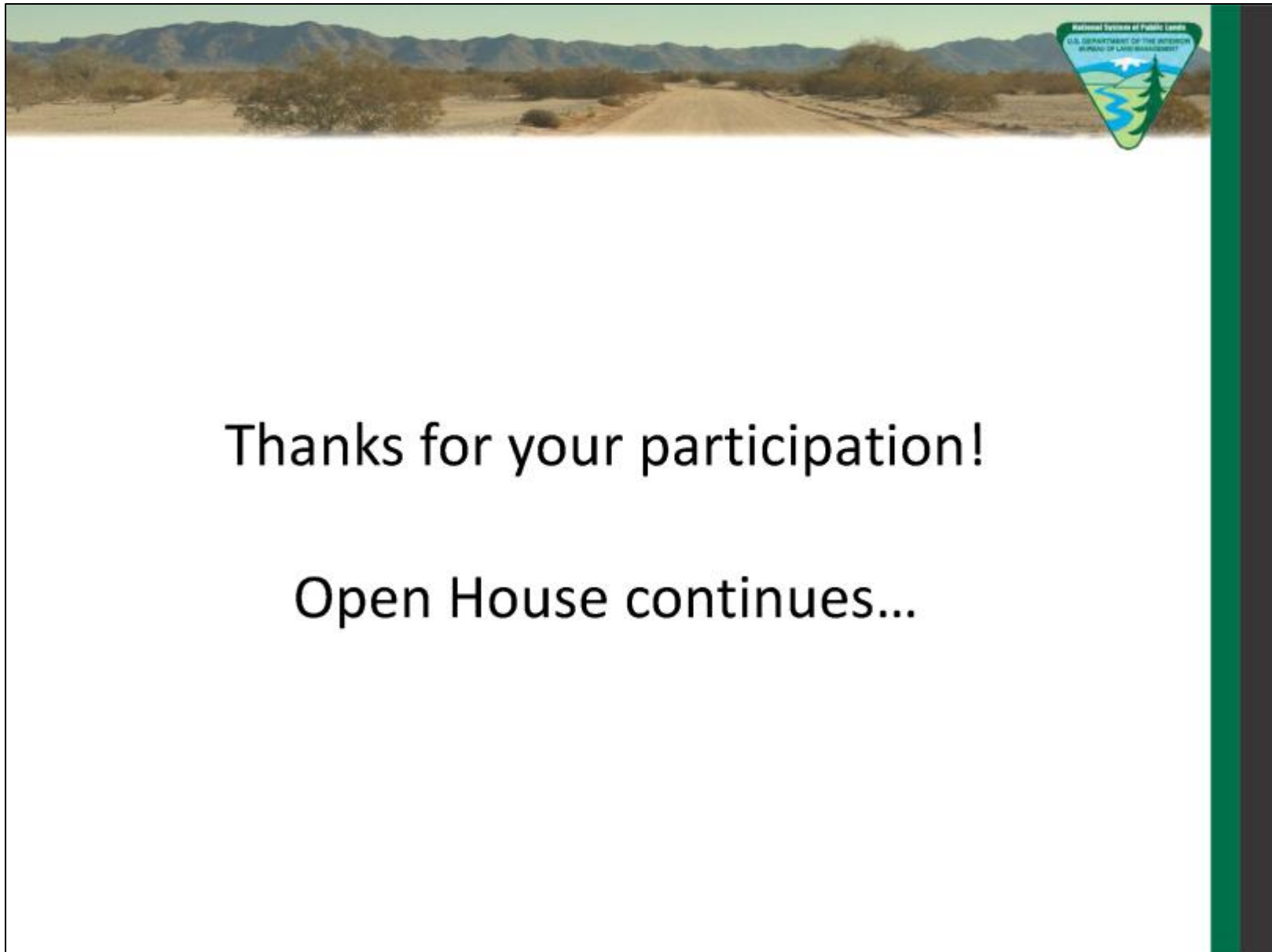
- Continued open house – opportunity to visit posters and ask questions
- Public Comment Period – ends **December 4, 2013**
- Draft EIS – Winter 2014 - additional public meetings following

More Information



For more information:

- Joe Incardine, BLM National Project Manager
(801)-539-4118
- Email: BLM_AZ_Maricopasolar@blm.gov
- Or visit the BLM project website:
<http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/solar/maricopa-solar.html>



This page intentionally blank

Meeting Handout

This page intentionally blank



November 2013

What is the Maricopa Solar Park?

Maricopa Energy 2, LLC (Maricopa) has filed an application for a right-of-way grant on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to construct a photovoltaic (PV) solar power plant. The proposed Maricopa Solar Park project would have a planned generating capacity of up to 300 megawatts, based on the best available technology at the time of construction. The project would consist of one or more phases, based upon potential power purchase agreement(s) with electrical utility companies. Electrical energy from an onsite switchyard would be delivered to the existing Pinal West Substation through up to two new high-voltage transmission lines of approximately 2.8 miles in length. The project proposes to use approximately 5.4 acre-feet of water per year for facility operation.

Where would the project be located?

The project would be located on approximately 1,730 acres of public land administered by the BLM in Maricopa County, Arizona, approximately 30 miles southwest of Phoenix. (See insert map.)



What is a variance and why was it required?

As the project would be located outside of one of the solar energy zones identified in the Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision, a variance application was required. Maricopa submitted its variance application for consideration to the BLM Arizona State Office and the BLM Washington Office. A public information meeting was held in Maricopa, Arizona, on February 5, 2013. The BLM Washington Office approved the Maricopa Variance application in June 2013.

Where Can I Get Additional Information?

Contact

Joe Incardine, National Project Manager
801-539-4118

BLM_AZ_Maricopasolar@blm.gov

Website

www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/solar/maricopa-solar.html

What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

An EIS is prepared for major Federal actions that may have a significant effect on the environment. The purpose of an EIS is to identify potential issues related to the project, analyze the project impacts, disclose them to the public, and use the information developed to make informed decisions. The EIS is a public document, and the public is encouraged to provide input throughout the development of the EIS. The EIS is not a decision document, but it is intended to provide information to the BLM decision makers in order to make informed decisions. See "A Citizen's Guide to the NEPA, Having your Voice Heard" for more information on NEPA and the EIS process. (http://eeq.hes.doe.gov/publications/citizens_guide_to_nepa.html)



What is scoping?

The BLM published a notice of intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* on September 20, 2013, notifying the public of the intent to prepare an EIS. Public scoping is the first stage of the EIS process in which potential environmental issues, project modifications, alternatives, and potential mitigative measures to be evaluated in the Draft EIS are identified. During the scoping period, the public is encouraged to provide comments and information on factors that should be considered in the EIS. Public meetings are being held November 12 and 13, 2013, Goodyear and Maricopa, respectively. The 45-day public scoping comment period was extended an additional 30 days due to the federal government shutdown (until December 4, 2013) to provide the public ample time to provide comments.

How can I provide my comments?

- Submit a comment form to BLM staff at the public scoping meeting(s)
- US Mail:
Maricopa Solar Park Project
Attn: Lane Cowger
BLM Arizona State Office
1 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85004
- Email: BLM_AZ_Maricopasolar@blm.gov

What are effective scoping comments?

Effective scoping comments are an important part of the NEPA process. The BLM needs your input on the following:

- Known impacts to natural resources as well as social and economic values regarding the proposed action (such as impacts to visual, cultural, recreation, and grazing resources and/or socio-economic impacts to the community, etc);
- Reasonable alternatives to the Proponent's proposed action; and
- Other issues and concerns.

Looking forward to the Draft EIS, the most effective comments are those that would provide useful information to the BLM. Comments made during scoping or on the EIS are not counted as votes. Rather comments are used to inform the BLM regarding resource impacts and reasonable alternatives and to adequately determine environmental impacts before the agency makes a final decision on the proposed project. Therefore, please avoid comments that state, "I am in favor of/opposed to this project," without adding the "because." Remember that the more clear, concise, and relevant to the project analysis your comments are, the more effective and useful they will be in improving the EIS analysis and affecting the BLM's decision. Please be sure to submit your comments within the timeframes announced, so as to ensure that the BLM will be able to have them included for use in the EIS.

